

ELINOR'S TOWN - PILOT EPISODE "A"

"THE SEED OF AN IDEA"

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EXT. ELINOR'S SCHOOL -- DAY, DAY 1

Title Card: "The Seed Of An Idea"

It's a crisp, clear morning in the forest. We see Elinor's school, buried among trees and surrounded by flowers and buzzing insects. We close in on a window and into...

INT. ELINOR'S CLASSROOM -- DAY, CONTINUOUS

The room is bright and colorful. ELINOR walks in wearing her backpack, smiling and hopping. She is excited for her day at school! As she walks, she passes other kids coming in and putting their things in their cubbyholes:

Elinor passes Ashley Bear, who undoes her hook and loop (i.e. "Velcro") boot straps. Skrrrrtch. Elinor's ears perk up at that as she walks by.

1 Hmmm. ELINOR 1

Next, Medhi Fox opens his backpack. *Skrrrrrtch.* Elinor's eyebrows jump.

Javier Moose undoes the velcro fasteners on his jacket.
Skrrrrtch. Elinor takes notice.

3 ELINOR (CONT'D) 3

Elinor arrives at her cubby. Her friends HAZEL and ARI come to greet her.

4 HAZEL
Hi, Elinor! You look extra curious
today!

5 ELINOR
Oh, hi, Hazel! Hi, Ari! 5

ARI
6 Are you CURIOUS to see something cool? Check THIS out! 6

Ari holds out his hand. On his wrist is an oversized kid's watch.

7 ARI (CONT'D)
I have a new watch! 7

8	ELINOR Ooohh...	8
9	HAZEL (Smiling) He's been showing it to everyone this morning.	9
10	ARI My parents got it for me. They said it's to help me stay on track. Watch this!	10
	Ari presses a button on the watch.	
11	WATCH ALARM Time to go to school!	11
	Eat your vegetables!	
	Put your pants on!	
	Elinor and Hazel look at each other.	
12	ARI Heh, sometimes I forget.	12
	The kids giggle.	
13	ARI (CONT'D) Want to see my favorite part?	13
	Look at the watch strap!	
	Ari opens and closes the hook and loop strap on his watch a few times. Skrrrrtch. Elinor's eyes open wide.	
14	ELINOR Oooohhh...	14
	At that moment, MS. MOLE, their teacher, calls them to order.	
15	MS. MOLE Ok, class, time to find our places!	15
	All the kids move to the rug at the center of the room. Ms. Mole stands next to her desk.	
16	CLASS Good morning, Ms. Mole!	16
17	MS. MOLE Good morning! Now, where is my book?	17

She feels around on her desk and picks up a carrot.

18 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Ah ha! Is this it? 18

19 CLASS (ALL TOGETHER)
No! / That's not it! / (Ari:) 19
That's a carrot!

Ms. Mole gives a sly smile and sniffs the carrot.

20 MS. MOLE
Oops! You're right! 20

She hunts around on the desk with her hands, picks up an eraser.

21 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Ok. This MUST be it. 21

22 CLASS
No! / That's an eraser! / (Hazel:
That's not a book!) 22

Ms. Mole smiles again, sniffs it. She puts it down and picks up a book.

23 MS. MOLE
Is THIS it?! 23

24 CLASS
Yes! (Laughing) 24

25 MS. MOLE
Nooooooow we are ready for the lesson! 25

Ms. Mole opens the book. There's a picture of a spiky seed on it.

26 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Today we are going to learn about... (dramatically) Nature's Ideas! 26

All of the kids are paying rapt attention, except for Elinor, who is looking at the watch on Ari's wrist. She moves to take a closer look.

27 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Nature has solved a lot of different kinds of problems and is full of useful ideas. For example-- 27

Ms. Mole is interrupted by a sudden *Skrrrrtch*. She turns from the picture book to look, and the noise stops. She scans the group of kids. Elinor is smiling innocently. After a beat, Ms. Mole turns back to her book. Elinor reaches for the watch again.

28	MS. MOLE (CONT'D) Ahem. Nature is full of useful ideas, like --	28
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She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrtch-Skrrrrtch*. She turns from the book to look, and the sound stops again. The kids look at each other. Everyone is puzzled!

29	MS. MOLE (CONT'D) (Slowly returning to book) Nature is full of ideas, like --	29
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She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrtch-Skrrrrtch*. This time she turns around very quickly. We see Elinor caught in the act of pulling on Ari's watch strap.

30	MS. MOLE (CONT'D) Elinor...	30
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31	ELINOR Ms. Mole!! This strap is sooo cool!	31
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Elinor stands up and holds up Ari's watch with Ari still attached to it.

32	ELINOR (CONT'D) You can open it and close it and open it and close it...	32
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She opens and closes the strap several times.

33	ELINOR (CONT'D) Most of it is soft and fuzzy, except for this scratchy patch...	33
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She opens it and points to the patch of "hook" fabric on one end (the rest of the strap is made of loop fabric).

34	ELINOR (CONT'D) ...which sticks to the fuzzy part of the strap. The two parts stick together like tape, but they aren't sticky!	34
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Elinor puts her finger on the patch and shows it doesn't stick.

	CLASS	
35	Oooohhh...	35
36	<p style="text-align: center;">ELINOR</p> <p>That is SO interesting!</p> <p>And look! There's a patch like that on all sorts of things!</p>	36
	Elinor drags Ari over to the cubby area.	
37	<p style="text-align: center;">ELINOR (CONT'D)</p> <p>It keeps Ashley's boots closed...</p>	37
	She pulls the watch strap (and Ari) down to Ashley's boots and points out the hook patch on the boot straps.	
38	<p style="text-align: center;">ELINOR (CONT'D)</p> <p>It keeps Mehdi's backpack closed...</p>	38
	She drags Ari over to Mehdi's backpack and opens and closes the backpack twice, pointing out the hook patch on the flap.	
39	<p style="text-align: center;">ELINOR (CONT'D)</p> <p>And it's on Javier's coat!</p>	39
	Elinor holds the watch up to the coat's hook patch. Hazel joins them.	
40	<p style="text-align: center;">HAZEL</p> <p>You're right, it's on everything!</p>	40
	Hazel undoes the watch band and a relieved Ari hits the floor.	
41	<p style="text-align: center;">ELINOR</p> <p>But I never thought about it before. I wonder how it works?</p>	41
	Ms. Mole opens her mouth to say something, but at that moment, Ari's watch beeps.	
42	<p style="text-align: center;">WATCH ALARM</p> <p>Time for recess! Time for recess!</p>	42
43	<p style="text-align: center;">MS. MOLE</p> <p>Ah, yes. Thank you, Ari's watch!</p> <p>It's time for recess!</p>	43
	All the kids cheer and stampede out the door, except for Elinor, Hazel and Ari. They turn off the alarm and walk over to the rug to look at the strap closely. Elinor fixates on the patch of hook fabric on one end.	

- 44 ELINOR
 Hmm.... How does this work? How 44
 does this scratchy patch stick to
 the fuzzy side without BEING
 sticky?
- 45 HAZEL
 Oh, sounds like a mystery. I'll see 45
 if we have any books about it!
- Hazel runs over to the class bookshelf. Ari looks longingly
out the window.
- 46 ARI
 What about going to recess? 46
- Elinor sticks the hook patch to Ari's sweater. The watch
hangs by itself.
- 47 ELINOR
 And look, the patch also sticks to 47
 other things!
- 48 ARI
 Hey! 48
- Elinor tries the patch on a nearby chair, showing it doesn't
stick.
- 49 ELINOR
 ...But it DOESN'T stick to 49
 everything.
- 50 ARI
 Huh. That IS interesting. 50
- Hazel returns with a large stack of books and plops them
down.
- 51 HAZEL
 Well, I found some fun books, but 51
 none about mysterious scratchy
 patches that stick to things.
- 52 ARI
 (Poking at the patch)...or DON'T 52
 stick to things! That's the
 mystery!

They pause and think.

64	ARI (Eyeing the playground) We could try some things outside?	64
65	ELINOR Yeah, good idea!	65
66	ARI We're going outside!	66

The kids go out the door. Elinor looks excited about their project and gives a hop or two. Hazel is twirling her trunk and looking over her notes.

EXT. THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. -- DAY, CONTINUOUS

There are kids playing on the swings and slides as Elinor, Hazel and Ari come outside.

67	ELINOR Ooh, let's try that tree!	67
	Elinor takes the watch and bounces over to a tree. She tries to stick the hook patch to the tree.	

68	ELINOR (CONT'D) Tree: no.	68
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Hazel records it.

69	ELINOR (CONT'D) Hmm, we need MORE OBSERVATIONS!	69
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A ditty begins to play and the kids sing a song:

70	ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI (Singing) We want to solve the mystery, Of how this sticks so stickily. We're going to try it here, And there, And everywhere! Into the woods and under the trees, We follow our curiosity!	70
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As they sing, they begin in the playground and wander among the bushes and trees nearby. They are dancing (and hopping and flying) a bit and trying the strap's hook patch on various things: bushes (no), acorns (no), rocks (no), etc.

EXT. CLEARING -- DAY

They emerge from some bushes and come to a small clearing, gathering around Hazel's list. Ari has some twigs and seed burrs stuck to his clothes and fur.

HAZEL
Ok, the scratchy patch sticks to
sweaters and rugs, but not anything
else!

ELINOR
72 Hmm, I don't see how it works. Do
 you guys?
72

The kids shake their heads.

ARI
73 It's such a sticky mystery! 73

They think for a moment: Elinor's ears cross or wiggle; Hazel scratches her head with the crayon. Ari notices the seed burrs stuck to him and tries to shake them off.

74 ARI (CONT'D) Ack! 74

He goes through a few shakes and contortions, but the seed burrs don't come off. He gets a little alarmed.

75 ARI (CONT'D)
Ah! These seeds won't come off! 75

Elinor goes over and grabs one of the seed burrs and pulls it off. It makes a small *skrrrrtch* sound. Ari sighs in relief.

ARI (CONT'D)
76 Thanks! 76

Elinor sticks it back on Ari and pulls it again. *Skrrrtch.*
Her eyes go wide.

77 Hey! ARI (CONT'D) 77

ELINOR
Look, this seed sticks to Ari's
sweater just like the scratchy
patch! It even makes the same
sound!

I wonder...

Elinor takes the seed and sticks it to the fuzzy side of the strap (*Skrrrtch*).

- | | | |
|---|--|----|
| 79 | ARI
Whoa... | 79 |
| 80 | HAZEL
The seed also sticks to the fuzzy part of the strap! | 80 |
| 81 | ELINOR
(Examining a seed burr)
What is this little seed? | 81 |
| <p>The kids crowd together and look really closely at the seed. They see that the seed has lots of little hooks on it.</p> | | |
| 82 | ARI
Look at all those little hooks. | 82 |
| <p>They follow the seed closely as they stick it to Ari's sweater. They see the little hooks catch on the loops in the fabric, and when they pull it, the hooks let go, making a small <i>skrrrtch</i> sound.</p> | | |
| 83 | ELINOR
It sticks because the little hooks grab the fuzziness of the sweater.
Hmmm... | 83 |
| <p>They look really closely now at the patch of "hooks" fabric on the watch strap.</p> | | |
| 84 | ARI
The patch on the strap also has little hooks! | 84 |
| 85 | HAZEL
They're even tinier. I hadn't seen them before! | 85 |
| 86 | ELINOR
THAT'S how it works! It's the tiny little hooks that make the patch sticky. | 86 |
| <p>They open and close the strap several times. They look closer and we see the hooks grabbing the loops in action.</p> | | |
| 87 | ARI
Ohhh... | 87 |

ELINOR
(Examining the fuzzy side
of the strap)

88 But the hooks need something fuzzy
 with little loops to grab on to. 88

Hazel checks her list.

HAZEL

89 Yeah! That's why the patch only
 sticks to these fuzzy things
(points to the items on the check
mark side), and not to these other
things that aren't fuzzy. These
things don't have little loops for
the hooks to grab!

The kids smile at each other, sharing a feeling of excitement
at having solved the puzzle.

ARI

90 We solved the mystery! 90

ELINOR

91 Let's tell Ms. Mole! 91

Elinor dashes off back to the playground, followed by Hazel
and then Ari, who flaps to catch up.

EXT. PLAYGROUND -- DAY

Elinor swooshes down the slide and jumps on the swing,
landing first. Ari flies over and Hazel comes up last,
puffing slightly. They find Ms. Mole sitting by the
playground.

ELINOR

92 Ms. Mole, we figured it out! 92

HAZEL

93 It's the little hooks on the
 patch... 93

ARI

94 That make the strap stick together! 94

ELINOR

95 But the hooks only stick to things
 that are fuzzy and have little
 loops in them. 95

Elinor makes a loop with two fingers and a hook with one
finger from the other paw and demonstrates.

Ms. Mole nods sagely and her nose twitches.

MS. MOLE
97 My, I smell some clever little
scientists. I knew you would figure
it out! 97

Elinor holds up one of the seeds.

98 ELINOR 98
We figured it out from looking at
this spiky seed, like the one you
were... uh, trying (she looks
sheepish) to teach us about before.

Elinor sticks the seed to Ari.

MS. MOLE
99 That is interesting! The strap and
the seed work the same way. Why do
you think that is? 99

Ari gasps in realization.

ARI
100 Did the seed COPY the idea from the
watch strap? 100

Ms. Mole smiles.

HAZEL

101 I think that would be silly... 101
(Unsure) Wouldn't it?

ELINOR
I bet the idea for the strap came
FROM the seeds! 102

MS. MOLE
That's right! 103

Ms. Mole pulls out the same book she was trying to show the kids earlier.

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
104 I was just about to tell you the
whole story... 104

Ms. Mole opens the book to the page we saw earlier, which shows the seed with lots of hooks. She turns the page to an illustration of Georges de Mistral (the inventor of hook and loop) as a dog character walking in the forest; the picture becomes animated as she explains.

105 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
 Georges de Mistral was an inventor
 who lived a long time ago. He loved
 to go for walks in the woods, but
 always came back with some seeds
 stuck to his fur and clothes. 105

The dog notices the seed burrs sticking to him.

106 ELINOR
 It's the same seeds we found! 106

107 MS. MOLE
 That's right! The seed has little
 hooks so it can grab on to things
 and grow in different places. 107

As Ms. Mole talks, we see Ari notice a butterfly and follow it into the bushes.

108 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
 (Back to the book) George wondered
 if he could use the same idea and
 make the hooks and loops himself.
 That way, he could get OTHER things
 to stick together. 108

The dog is in a workshop making the first hook-and-loop prototype. Later, he tests it on a new coat. Skkkkrtch!

109 ELINOR
 Wow. Nature really DOES have some
 good ideas, Ms. Mole. I'm glad we
 went to explore in it! 109

110 (Singing)
 Into the woods and under the trees,
 We can follow our curiosity! 110

Ms. Mole smiles and winks.

111 MS. MOLE
 Well, I think it's great that you
 didn't give up and figured it out
 yourselves! 111

At that moment, Ari comes from the bushes, completely covered in seed burrs from head to toe. Hazel is startled.

112

HAZEL

112

Ah!

113

ARI

113

Yeah, you could say we really STUCK
with it!

They all laugh.

END.